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Pres. Robert THOMPSON
x Pres. Robert SWANNFR
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CIA Denies Employing 2 Missing U.S. Fliers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Government sources indicated Friday that fliers Robert Thompson and Robert Swann were on a private mission—not an official one—when they disappeared over Cuba in December, 1961.

That would explain why the families of the missing men, who told friends they were going on a leaflet-dropping flight, have received no government benefits.

After an inquiry, the Central Intelligence Agency reportedly denied to Sen. George Smathers (D-Fla.), that the men had been in its employ.

Smathers and two other members of Congress have been asked by the families for some help, at least for Social Security benefits. But

the congressmen so far have been unable to determine that the families are eligible for these benefits.

The families have not been receiving any regular compensation from private sources, either. This sets their plight apart from that of the widows of four Americans shot down over Cuba while flying B-26 bombers in the Bay of Pigs invasion in April, 1961.

These widows receive regular checks from a trust fund set up by the Double Chek Corp. of Miami.

Indications are that the four men shot down in the Bay of Pigs invasion were on a government-sponsored mission while the two fliers dropping leaflets eight months later were not. They may have been employed by anti-Castro refugees.